

February 25, 2005

Dear Friend,

Although many of the major legislative measures that Congress will be debating this year have not yet come to the floor for consideration, the 109th Congress is certainly well under way. From determining Committee spots to the President's recent budget submission, the groundwork has been laid for what will be a very important session. In addition, I have already introduced several bills dealing with important New Mexico issues.

One measure, H.R. 362, the Ojito Wilderness Study Area, would designate as permanent wilderness the Ojito Wilderness Study Area in Sandoval County. The Ojito area consists of about 11,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land characterized by pristine and dramatic landforms and rock structures, and by several rare plant populations that are indigenous to the area. Beyond its scenic and natural beauty, the Ojito Wilderness Study Area and the surrounding lands are further recognized for their high density of cultural and archeological sites, including sites that have religious significance to Pueblo Indians. This legislation would also enable the Pueblo of Zia to buy land to unite the disparate pieces of their tribal lands. For information on this legislation please [click here](#).

Another bill that I recently introduced would establish a Federal renewable energy portfolio standard (RPS) for certain retail electric utilities. This legislation is the first step toward encouraging greater use of our country's clean and domestic renewable energy resources. My RPS bill would encourage the use of renewable energy by establishing a nationwide, market-based program that would set fair, achievable and affordable clean energy goals for each state. It would also benefit farmers, save consumers money, reduce air pollution and the threat of global warming, and ultimately benefit our national security by decreasing our dependence on foreign oil. For more information on this legislation please [click here](#).

I also introduced H.R. 984, to name the Federal Courthouse in Santa Fe, New Mexico, after Judge Santiago Campos. Judge Campos was the first Hispanic appointed to the federal bench in New Mexico, serving from 1978 until his death in 2001, including as chief judge from 1987 through 1989. Sadly, Judge Campos passed away on January 20, 2001. Following his passing, the New Mexico State Legislature passed a joint memorial requesting Congressional action to name the Federal Courthouse, where he had his chambers in the courthouse for over 22 years. I am hopeful that we can pass this legislation to honor an outstanding jurist, an honorable man, and a leading Hispanic in the field of law. Please [click here](#) to read my statement of introduction for this important legislation.

Very truly yours,

Tom Udall
Member of Congress